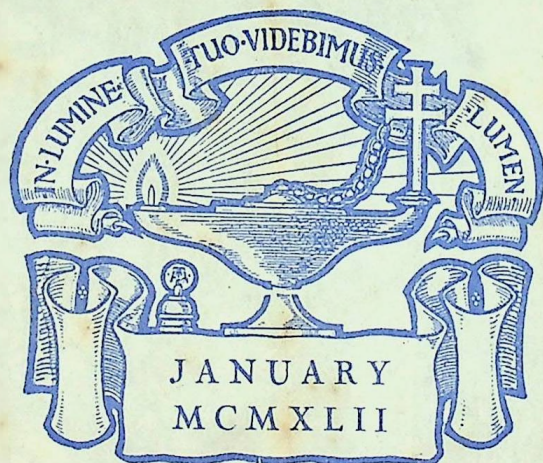


TOC H JOURNAL



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THREEPENCE



W. J. LAKE LAKE, *Hon. Administrator of Toc H.*

(Fox Photos.)

TOC H JOURNAL

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No. I

THE HONORARY ADMINISTRATOR

TOC H has been very fortunate in its Honorary Administrators, a post created by the Royal Charter of 1922. Before Christmas of that year PETER MONIE, who had resigned a distinguished position in the Indian Civil Service because he had a vision of the opportunity and the need of our young movement, was at work, shaping the rapid growth of an eager membership upon an orderly plan. Starting from experiments in federation already in existence in Yorkshire and in London, he built up, step by step, the system of Areas and Districts which has stood the test of time. His outline of organisation for Toc H may often be modified, but it is not likely to be superseded. At the same time, by writing *Toc H under Weigh* (originally a series of articles in this JOURNAL) he explained Toc H to itself and gave it a philosophy of life.

When Peter resigned in 1934 for the purpose of taking Orders, HUBERT SECRETAN had already been working for some time at Headquarters, in charge of the Schools Section. He had been a teacher himself and was in touch with the world of higher education; he had also had years of the closest touch with working boys in the clubs in Bermondsey. At first he was frankly critical of Toc H as a movement, but a nearer view left him utterly convinced of its mission and its potentialities. Out of his own two-fold experience he set to work to help Toc H, on the one hand, to think more deeply and to educate itself, and, at the same time, to improve the standard of its social service by study of the problems and more consistent work.

When Hubert received a call, in 1940, from the Ministry of Shipping (in which he served in the last war) and felt bound to obey it, who should succeed him? Again the man was

not wanting. W. J. LAKE LAKE had recently retired from a long and varied career in South America, ending with many years in the service of a great Oil Company in the Argentine. He had been a remarkable pioneer of Toc H also. If the earliest overseas connection of Toc H had been Tubby's hasty visit to Canada in 1922, its first organised beginning abroad was built up by 'Lako' in Buenos Aires in 1923. Under the peculiar difficulties of a foreign country he never lost faith or heart in the venture; his quiet and steady leadership carried it through all doubts and setbacks. All the time he was a Man of Kent in exile and, when at last he was able to retire, he looked forward to richly earned leisure in his beloved corner of England. Hardly had he settled in his little hilltop country house and begun to make his garden than the war fell on us all, and before long he was snatched away to London by an urgent invitation from Toc H which he felt unable to refuse.

It has never been the custom of this JOURNAL to 'write up' members of Toc H while they are alive or still in office. So this page will not attempt any full-length appreciation of "Lako" as his fellow-members in the Argentine or the team at Headquarters see him, nor to express adequately the loyalty and affection they feel for him. But, apart from these two sections of Toc H, the membership at home and overseas scarcely knows him yet and may be glad of a few words about him.

Perhaps the photograph we publish, taken in his own garden on the Sussex border, gives some hint of the man. At any rate it suggests cheerfulness and vigour. Lako's working experience is different from those of the two

first Honorary Administrators, each of whom was able to make a special contribution to the building of Toc H. Peter was an administrator by career, Hubert a thinker and a social worker; Lako is a business man and a man of action. As a lad of sixteen he was learning about life in the rough and tumble of the sheep-farming community of Tierra del Fuego and the hard climate of Cape Horn. Afterwards he worked in the steamy tropics of the Amazon and in the sophisticated city life of Buenos Aires. In the last war he served in France with a cavalry regiment. So he has sheared his 150 sheep a day, is a fine horseman, has flown a plane thousands of miles in the course of business, and can meet men of action or in the business world on their own ground. He has two characteristic hobbies—he is an enthusiastic fisherman, and he is a fine swordsman. He will leave H.Q. of an

evening for a bout at the Fencing Club and give younger men their money's worth there. You do not really know him until you have seen his historic collection of swords and heard him discourse delightfully on them. And no portrait would be complete which left out his family life and his wife and two daughters.

These are, so to speak, but the external influences which help to make the man. His approach to the problems which beset us, especially in wartime, is quite straightforward, just as his view of Toc H is simple and direct, his faith in its religious purpose perfectly clear. And he has the trick of rallying people round him, active and cheerful in what we call the family spirit. This is the true trick of Toc H. So we end this note as we began—Toc H has been very fortunate in its Honorary Administrators. B. B.

THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT

THE World Chain of Light, which has been celebrated on December 11, the Birthday of Talbot House, Poperinghe, in 1915, by units of Toc H all over the world since 1929, has not been neglected in wartime. Last year it was started under the ruins of All Hallows in London, this year from Iceland. Standing to their Lamps and Rushlights at 9 p.m. by their local time, members were able to picture the chain of lights thus strung steadily round the globe as it turned in space, and to feel their unity with one another.

Padre 'Dick' Craig, at one time on the staff of Toc H, who won his M.C. on the beaches of Dunkirk and is now an Army Chaplain with the Iceland Force, wrote:—

"The Chain this year starts from the most Northern stronghold which Toc H has yet reached—the Group which gathers around the Lamp in the Services Club in Reykjavik, Iceland. It is composed entirely of Service men and the whole reason for their existence in that country is that they may watch—steadily straining their eyes so that the vital sea-lanes of the Atlantic may be kept open for the safety of the world.

"'Guard,' 'Watch,' 'Patrol' are the commonest words on the lips of soldier, sailor and airman. They understand what it means to keep vigil, and they also understand the meaning of light. On December 11, at 9 p.m., darkness will already be

six hours old, and it will be twelve hours more before the dawn—eighteen hours of mingled boredom and danger. They have long ceased to think of the 'cosy comfort' of artificial light. They have learned to thank God for His good gift of the sun and long to see more of it. Arctic night is a wearisome and dangerous thing.

"How much of the light of the world between World War Number 1 and World War Number 2 was artificial light? The human family was surely, as it were, living in a room with the black-out curtains drawn. The glorious God-given sun was shining all the time, but the world preferred its own light. From time to time great Christian movements and great Christian individuals would tear away a little of the curtain, but most of the light was still man-made. Now the war has come and the 'mains' have been cut off!

"Yes, the men of the Forces in Iceland understand this business of light, and some of them are determined that they will help to tear down some of those black-out curtains before they die. Other see it differently in other parts of the world, but we rejoice that our purpose is the same, as throughout the twenty-four hours now beginning the Lamps burst into flame; that after this darkness is over we who realise now the inadequate sources of our light will turn for real sunshine to the source of all true light—Jesus Christ our Lord."

The spirit in which men held the Ceremony of Light at 9 p.m. on December 11 was the same the world over, but the scene in which it was set varied infinitely. Take one contrast from this Island alone. Tubby, wait-

ing in a Welsh port for his Tanker to sail, wrote:—

"The World Chain of Light to-morrow is arranged on board and we shall do our best to keep it going."

And from Canterbury Cathedral comes a picture of the scene in the Chapel of Our Lady

Undercroft—the congregation of Toc H, L.W.H. and their friends gathered, the inspiring words of the Bishop of Dover.

"Thus," says the writer, "in the very centre of English Christianity, in the Mother Church of England and of all the Britains beyond the seas, was forged our link in the World Chain of Light."

A Litany of Light

Composed for the World Chain of Light of 1941 by Padre MAX PETITPIERRE.

FATHER of all men

in Whom the nations of the world are joined in one family,

Hallowed be Thy Name

in all souls who strive to serve Thee through bereavements and trials, through pain or imprisonment,

Hallowed be Thy Name

in every effort that we make to overcome misunderstanding, hate and pride, and to draw men nearer to Thee,

Hallowed be Thy Name

for every good and perfect gift of beauty and friendship, of love and unselfish service,

Hallowed be Thy Name

for the Elder Brethren who in past ages and this present time have freely offered themselves in Thy service, laying down their lives for their brethren,

Hallowed be Thy Name.

O LORD CHRIST, Son of God, Giver of Light, into the darkness of men's minds, blinded by tumults of war,

Thy Kingdom come

into the hidden corners of men's hearts,

Thy Kingdom come

into the laws and customs of the world,

Thy Kingdom come

by every effort of good-will and sacrifice by men of every nation,

Thy Kingdom come

with great Power and over-ruling Majesty, by quietness and confidence of heart,

Thy Kingdom come.

HOLY SPIRIT, God of Love, True Fire purging the world of dross and sin,

through all the tragedies of waste, destruction and death which we have brought upon ourselves,

Thy Will be done

through that new spirit of unselfishness and brotherly love which Thou alone canst give,

Thy Will be done

through every effort made to direct the future of the peoples of this earth,

Thy Will be done

through the enthusiasm of young men and women throughout the world, and by the efforts of this our family,

Thy Will be done

through every heartfelt prayer, through every noble thought and each aspiring hope,

Thy Will be done.

FOR THINE, Lord, is the eternal and everlasting Kingdom, the Kingdom of Truth and Life, the Kingdom of Holiness and Grace, the Kingdom of Justice, Love and Peace;

THINE, Lord, is the Power that gently and rightly directs all things in purposes of Love;

THINE alone is the Glory, the true Light, the only source of unity and service.

To which, Lord, do Thou bring us all for ever and ever.

THE ELDER BRETHREN

BARR SMITH.—On November 26 in Adelaide, THOMAS E. BARR SMITH, aged 78, an early friend and benefactor of Toc H South Australia.

FARRAR.—In a motor accident on November 2, GEORGE H. FARRAR, aged 38, a probationer of Borough Bridge Branch.

HIRST.—On manoeuvres on October 4, ROBERT ('BOBBIE') HIRST, formerly a hosteler of Mark I.

JONES.—Killed on active service in November, HAYDN JONES, Pilot-Officer, R.A.F., late Secretary of Seaton Group. Elected 23.3.'38.

KING.—Killed on active service on October 24, HAROLD CHRISTOPHER KING, Sergt. Pilot, R.A.F., a member of Godalming Branch.

RAVENHILL.—On October 18, HORATIO THOMAS ('Squire') RAVENHILL, aged 79, General member and former Guard of the Lamp, British Columbia Area. Elected December, 1927.

REEVES.—On October 18, in an accident, the Rev. ARTHUR WILLIAM REEVES, aged 56, Padre of Longstone Group, first Padre of Salisbury Branch in 1925. Elected 1923.

ROACH.—Suddenly, on November 7, the Rev. C. B. ROACH, first Chairman of Wolverhampton and Padre successively of Wolverhampton and Tettenhall Branches, West Bromwich Branch and Shrewsbury Branch.

TURNER.—In October, H. F. R. TURNER, a founder member of Teignmouth Branch.

AROUND THE MAP

Tubby Sails

AS we reported last month Tubby has left the Orkneys to go to sea. In a personal letter to the Editor in October he wrote:—

"I have now agreed to undertake to fill a three months gap as temporary Chaplain to the Tankers. They have not had a Chaplain of their own since the last went to join the R.A.F. and it does seem a serious neglect that they should thus be left without a Chaplain just at this stage when work is a big strain. I know you will agree that somebody should undertake this work, and, since I know a bit about the job, I thought it would be suitable for me. So I shall be away during the winter, and thus exempt from any shortage of tobacco, forgetting the supplies of eggs and all other troubles of the times."

He left London to join his ship on the afternoon of December 3. That morning he called at Headquarters, where all work was stopped for a few minutes and the whole staff came together to bid him God-speed. 'Lako' expressed the feelings of all, Herbert Leggate led in short prayers and a blessing, and Tubby spoke for a few minutes. The tanker crews (they numbered 76,000 men in peace-time, he said) enjoyed fewer amenities than any others in the grand fraternity of the sea; their ships, with dangerous cargo, could not lie in harbour alongside others, nor their men easily reach the seamen's institutes ashore. Tubby has voyaged on tankers in the Mediterranean and in the East in times past. He knows their need and, now more than ever, feels he ought to do what he can himself to meet it. No member needs reminding that Tubby is now not only on active, but on dangerous, service. This was uppermost in the minds of the staff at their little meeting with him. Tubby afterwards wrote to them:—

"I was indeed a debtor to H.Q., and so remain, for your united action, and Herbert's prayer and everybody's kindness. This memory will not grow less with me as distance comes between us for the time."

He will be upheld by the remembrances and prayers of the whole family of Toc H.

Good News from Pop.!

As readers know, the news of the fate of Talbot House, Poperinghe, since the enemy

invaded Flanders in May, 1940, has been most conflicting. Some eyewitnesses claim to have seen it roofless and burning, and even to have searched the ruins of it. The only contrary news has come to us roundabout, in messages from members of our staff in German prisons who had received letters from René and Olida Berat, the stewards of the Old House, living under German occupation. One message from them, from an address in the same street as the Old House, reached England in answer to a letter written nearly a year before, but made no mention of Talbot House. One of Rex Calkin's latest letters from his prison camp told us that the Berats had moved again and were now living at 56, Rue de Furnes, Poperinghe. But now, at last, the first letter direct from them has reached Paul Slessor at Headquarters, in answer to one he wrote to them, *via* the International Red Cross in Geneva, on July 2. It appears, by the many rubber stamps on it, to have reached Geneva on July 17, to have been received by the Belgian Red Cross on October 1 and to have been answered on November 14, reaching us on December 15. Here is the text of the brief answer:—

Tous les Amis sont heureux d'avoir eu des nouvelles. Tous en bonne santé. Maison existe toujours. Amitiés à tous les Amis.

RENÉ OLIDA BERAT

Rue de l'Hôpital 35, Poperinghe.

"All the friends" (Toc H has many in Pop.) "happy to have had news. All in good health. The House still exists. Greetings to all the friends." And it bears the address of the Old House itself, which seems to prove that it is still inhabited.

Members of Toc H and L.W.H. everywhere will rejoice that hopes of survival, which have always existed but seemed to grow more slender, have thus been realised. We may have to wait long for the whole story.

A Voice from the Argentine

Pat Moxey, Chairman of Buenos Aires-Shakleton Branch, in a Christmas letter to some of his friends on H.Q. Staff, writes:—

"Here in the Argentine, although we are surrounded by friendly people, live in an atmosphere of peace, occasionally have our half day off, have far too much to eat, etc., most of us do bear in mind the part we can play in this country towards the furtherance of the war effort."

Forgive me speaking of myself when I tell you that, entirely owing to what I have learnt in Toc H, I am now in my third period as Honorary Secretary of the British Community Council, which consists of 27 old-established entities and over 52 Districts, right through the country from Tierra del Fuego to Jujuy. Had it not been for my training in Toc H I could never have tackled what really is a colossal job, and I have learned so much that I am eternally grateful to the movement..." (He goes on to instance one part of the Council's work—"the job of feeding our British prisoners of war in Germany and in German-occupied Europe to the tune of 400 tons of food-stuff a month, at the cost of about 450,000 dollars a month", and to mention other Toc H members engaged in it). "It is no exaggeration on my part to state that the members of Toc H set the pace for the British community during the first two years of the war, in that they cheerfully and constantly undertook community work of all kinds. It is definitely owing to their example that the community as a whole has become more and more conscious of its duties and is rallying in such a wonderful way to assist as much as they can."

"Our own unit," he goes on, "is extremely small, as there are no less than ten of our members serving in H.M. Forces. We are reduced to about eight members, and each one is pulling his weight. Our chief effort is directed towards looking after the men of the Merchant Navy, and we most sincerely have to thank Howard Dunnett (*he went out to South America from the home staff, 1936-38*) for initiating this work. Not a night passes but that there are men of the Merchant Navy at the Mark in an atmosphere of friendship and comfort. Every Thursday evening, our meeting night, we go down to the port to 'Liberty Inn,' of the Missions to Seamen, at 7 o'clock and bring back our friends of the Merchant Navy to the Mark for dinner and then invite them to remain with us during our meeting, which we endeavour to end by 9.30, so that they may either go out with us to cinemas or to the Missions or to Liberty Inn."

We may add that a steady flow of volunteers from South America, mostly destined for the R.A.F., has been given hospitality in the London Marks. They come not only from the Argentine but from Brazil, Chile and Peru and some wear the (not strictly official) shoulder title on their airmen's uniform of B.L.A.V.—'British Latin American Volunteer.' Some of them are our own members, all are equally welcomed.

Progress in the Middle East

News of our work for the Services in the Middle East has been fairly frequent in these pages, and readers know that it springs from two sources—from home which sent out Alan Cowling to join Dicky Dines in Egypt and

to direct it, and from South Africa, from which the official Union Defence Force Institutes (a combination of Y.M.C.A. and Toc H) have reached Abyssinia and 'them parts.'



Standing: Raymond Gilbert (U.D.F.I., Toc H South Africa), Rev. Peter Booth, R.N., R. Dines, M.B.E. Seated: Rev. R. Davies, A. M. Cowling, J. G. Turvey.

The team of Alan Cowling, Dicky Dines and Padre David Booth, R.N. (who is making an outstanding success of the 'Under 20' Club at Alexandria) has been reinforced by Toc H overseas in the persons of Gordon Turvey and Padre Bob Davies from Australia and now by Norman Currie of Mark I, Buenos Aires. These—and more—will have their hands very full, for extensions asked for by the authorities are being actively planned for Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa in Palestine and a Club somewhere in Syria. Alan Cowling in a recent airmail letter to Headquarters hoped that, "with luck," the Tel Aviv House would be open in the middle of last October.

Meanwhile the Union Defence Force Institutes, coming up from the South, are in touch with our men in Egypt. The Services Club at Cairo was for two months the Headquarters of U.D.F.I., and Michael Westropp, now a major in the U.D.F.I., has been there

on and off. Alan writes that "the South Africans have made themselves extremely popular all round—the troops are a fine type of man." He continues:—

"We are now seriously tackling the problem of extending again the Cairo House. Its 65 beds are full every night and we turn at least ten away every day. . . Alex. could also be extended to cope with the need, but we feel that 80 beds is about the most any Warden can handle if he is to give the essential personal attendance to fellows. As a matter of fact we could, given the men to run them, open another Talbot House in each city, but there are prior needs elsewhere."

And now there comes news, still mysterious, of an outbreak of Toc H in a new direction. Clifford Lilburn, a probationer of Leicester Branch, now a Lance-Bombardier in the Middle East Force, cabled and then wrote to Leicester early in November, as follows:—

"For once I have some news for you concerning Toc H, which is close to both our hearts. On the afternoon of October 22 a meeting was held in the name of Toc H, in an old, dried-up well. The attendance was seven, including the Padre and myself. The meeting opened with a talk on the history of Toc H up to the present day; I followed with a short talk on its work. The other five had only heard of Toc H by name, so we started from the beginning. All seemed very interested, and since that meeting other claps have asked me to explain it to them. So you see it looks as if we shall have, God willing, other meetings in the near future. The Padre hopes to obtain permission to start a unit in the Regiment. . . It is a great thrill to me to know I was privileged to be in at the start of such an enterprise. We need your prayers for this work out here, it is under such difficult circumstances. . . The meeting had two things that were unique, one that it was the first time it had been held in the Regiment, and the other its being the first meeting ever to be held in this country. . . It has been hard work trying to get this meeting, but now the sails are set and the course is laid. So—look out, Toc H, here we come!"

Where is it? We hazard Libya as a possible answer. At an earlier stage of the war R.A.F. members had held meetings in a tent at Mersa Matruh, or on the beach and sometimes in the desert further west, but, so far as we know, not over the Libyan border.

Good News from Malta

We at home have been profoundly impressed by the steady gallantry of Malta under continual air attack. A recent letter to 'Greeno' from Sapper Bert Stock reflects the Maltese mood of cheerfulness and energy.

As a Plymouth man he is more concerned about dangers at home than on the spot. He gives good news of Toc H in Malta:—

"As a result of hostilities in general, we have been somewhat out of the JOURNAL of late. To crown everything, our Group Secretary and Treasurer, C.P.O. Writer Bert Brown, had a rather hasty 'draft chit,' and consequently everything was left in the air.

"Ex-members of Sliema Group (especially Mechanician 'Nobby' Clark, who was in the Malaya whilst out here) will, I expect, be particularly interested to know that we have succeeded in putting Tigne Group back again on a working basis, and now are trying to put Sliema into its old place on the map.

"We have three Houses under way at present, including the old Talbot House at 39, Imrabat Street, which also sports an annexe. Incidentally, the Warden and his wife, C.P.O. Moore and Mrs. Moore, are both from Plymouth and, I am proud to say, maintain the highest traditions of West Country hospitality.

"The other two Houses, Tigne and Valletta, are equally popular and are invariably full to overflowing at week-ends; in fact, many have to be turned away. . . I should have mentioned that every Sunday evening, at 6.30 p.m., Evensong is held in our own Chapel at Talbot House by Padre Marson. At 9.15 p.m. we also celebrate 'Light' and Family Prayers. We have tried, as far as possible, to take 'Light' at least once a week, even though, through unavoidable absence of members, it has been impracticable to hold a meeting.

"In conclusion I should like to say 'thank you' to the South Western Area for such a splendid example of the Toc H spirit."

H.M.T. G.II Group again

Readers may remember the account of the 'Temporary Group' on board the troopship H.M.T. G.II, which was published in the JOURNAL last October. Since then its prime mover, 2nd Lieut. Eric Schmidt, has, by great good fortune, joined hands in the Western Desert with Capt. Eric Saywell, instigator of a 'Temporary Group' on another troopship (see September and December JOURNALS) and they are busy running Toc H together. And now we have news that the Group in H.M.T. G.II, is less temporary than was expected. We quote from a letter received from John Roberts (a member, by the way, of Marsh Branch, not of Huddersfield, as previously reported), who took part in the meetings on the first voyage and carried them on afterwards. He writes:—

"It so happened that I was a member of the Medical Staff of H.M.T. G.II at the time and permanently on the ship's staff. We come under Trooping duties and it was when Eric disembarked

in the Middle East that I promised I would do my best to continue with the Group as far as my duties and circumstances allowed me. This resulted in another meeting on my next run North from South Africa on July 16, when five members, along with thirteen visitors (one of whom was the temporary ship's Padre, W. D. P. Mercer, of Evershott Rectory, Bletchley) attended. As on previous occasions, we used for the Ceremony of 'Light' a spirit lamp lent by my Sergt.-Dispenser."

At this meeting Terry Rushworth (Mark IV, Manchester), R. P. Hill (Altrincham) and L. H. Callow (South Petherton), as well as John Roberts, spoke. Other members present were R. F. Larcombe (formerly Tighe Group, Malta) and C. J. Coleman (Mark I, London). At family prayers they remembered a Royal Navy member, S. Gillman-Stannage, who was sick in the ship's hospital. He goes on:—

"I was unable to arrange another meeting until returning home from South Africa in October, when we carried a number of invalids on board, along with men who had completed their overseas service—among them two members from the Middle East, R. Stroud of Amman and Aboukir, and L. Westlake, of Nairobi Branch. We were unable to get together until November 9, when, after a notice had been put in orders, only two more visitors turned up. So again, for the benefit of the visitors, I talked about the history of Toc H and asked Stroud and Westlake ('Lofty') to tell us about Toc H in East Africa. Considering the attendance (5), we had a good meeting.

"Whilst in Durban I contacted the Durban Branch but was only able to attend one meeting. Just before leaving I met two Toc H fellows in the street and made myself known to them. They proved to be Ronald Anderson (of Toc H Headquarters, Johannesburg) and F. R. Snell, of Balgowen, Natal, who were in search of a suitable building for a Services Club. They sent their best wishes to all at 'Home'."

Finally, he asks for advice on running Toc H in Troopships and adds "I shall do my best, as far as my medical duties allow me, to further the movement so dear to me."

A Services Team

Here is a picture of a very simple ceremony which stands for much, a ceremony which has taken place lately in a good many interesting places—the presentation of a Rushlight to a Services Team. In this instance, Flight-Lieutenant A. N. Arnold, the Station Adjutant, is seen receiving the symbol on behalf of the Mildenhall R.A.F. Team from the hands of A. V. ('Inky') Bean, Assistant Warden of the Cambridge Toc H Services

Club. Padre Murray Gawne, of the East Anglian Area, who sends the picture, adds that "the peculiarly unpleasant and somewhat



bellicose Japanese-looking individual in the background" is himself.

Matches

In wartime there is a shortage of matches of one kind but not of another. Among marriages in Toc H we record that of NORMAN CRAYFORD, one of the first of the Toc H Leprosy Volunteers, to MARY JEAN SIMPSON; the ceremony took place at All Hallows and was performed by the Rev. Ronald Park, the Acting Vicar. Norman returns with his wife, who is a trained nurse, to duty at the Uzuakoli Leper Colony in Nigeria. On December 20 GEOFFREY JOHNSTON was married to CONSTANCE BUTLER. He has returned from Toc H duty in Iceland recently and now leaves our staff, on which he has served for eight years, to join the R.A.F. On January 1 HOWARD DUNNETT marries ELIZABETH BARBARA LILLEY at Cambridge, where he has been warden of the Services Club; he expects soon to leave for Iceland. To all these our congratulations and best wishes.

'Tales of Talbot House'

A new edition of the famous *Tales* is now ready, at the old price of 1s. It has been revised and contains an additional chapter by Tubby and an 'Open Letter' written for it by Lord Wakefield a few days before his death.

TIPS FOR A TEAM

"The strength of Toc H during the last five years," writes TUBBY, "has been remarkable in the Destroyers. Here is advice on the first steps in building a team of six picked shipmates for Toc H. It is a letter to a Petty Officer, chosen to form a team. It may help others."

MY DEAR P.O.,

WE scarcely met each other, and yet I feel that we are drawn together by God's good Hand, and by no lesser means. I came into your ship a complete stranger, except for my old friendship with your Captain, of whom, five years ago, Admiral Fisher thought very highly as a man of promise.

In all parts of the ship you made me welcome, and I am deeply grateful to you all. Will you please ask the Coxswain, Mr. Davies, to let the lads all know that I enjoyed each moment of my time, both fore and aft? The Sunday evening sing-song was first-rate; and I am so glad that we had Prayers together—I only hope I didn't talk too long.

Now for the job which I have laid on you, with your agreement; and with the consent accorded by the Captain and the First Lieutenant; while Coxswain Davies gave me the advice which led me to request you to undertake the delicate task of starting a small team, and picking out the men whom we most need, to represent a first-rate contribution towards Toc H in character and worth.

A Christian Brotherhood

I always find it difficult to state in down-right words precisely what I hope that these Destroyer teams can do to help the whole big Movement in a world at war. But I don't think that you will really need a long description of the kind of men whom I am asking you to bring together. In the first place you will, I think, remember that when we had our talk and quiet time I gave you, among other literature, the little cards on which the Toc H Prayer is printed, for distribution to the membership. I asked you to request, as from myself, that all the men who were disposed to join should take one of these cards, and use the Prayer until they came to know the words by heart. This Toc H Prayer is nowadays in use by fifty thousand members of Toc H—

that figure is, I think, an understatement, for there are few, indeed, among our members who do not know the Prayer in such a way that it has become part of their lives and personalities. I don't intend, in what I am writing now, to stress this point, nor to explain the Prayer; in my opinion it explains itself.

I told you clearly, and you gave consent, that in a Christian Brotherhood like this, so freely shared by all denominations, we must be liberal; but we must be sure that men who join Toc H are doing so because they want to give rather than get—the first thing that they give is their intention that they'll let this little Prayer become part of their lives, part of their characters; and give Toc H a true place in their thoughts.

The Right Men

Although I start expressly on this point, because we were quite open with each other, that Toc H is a Christian Brotherhood, and nothing less—not a mere social club. I do not want you simply to put down the names of men who are extremely pious, however much we honour their convictions. Negative men, without a sense of humour, or men who are ill balanced—what we call the 'Wowser' in Australia—will not do. I don't think you have got them in your ship; for a destroyer keeps its sense of fun, having to face so little fun outside. Toc H is, therefore, on an even keel, its members are not narrow-minded persons, but they are straight, fear God, honour the King, and are efficient in the work they do. Men who are not well liked by their own shipmates will not be very useful in Toc H; and in the early days, at all events, we want to steer clear of weak characters who will not make strong members of the team. We need, to start with, half-a-dozen men, who are first-rate—known to be first-rate—men who can stand together to improve an anxious or an ugly situation, and turn a trouble to the best

account, taking the extra strain upon themselves.

Will you please, therefore, pick a little team of some six men at your complete discretion—though I suggest that you should call into consultation both the Coxswain and the First Lieutenant. I am

so glad to think that they will help. Then will you ask the men if they are willing to represent the ship in Toc H work, and actually to join as active members, filling up forms which I have left with you, and paying, either minimum subscriptions of 2/6, or adding four more shillings in order to receive the Toc H JOURNAL. This money should be paid by them to you; and then sent on either to J. Hailey Clark, Esq., Toc H Kirkwall, Orkney, or direct to the General Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, together with the application forms. A month may then elapse—it sometimes takes almost a month

before the Elections Committee can handle all the Service nominations which they receive. Please see, on all the forms, that home addresses are put down most clearly, together with the official number and rank of the candidate concerned. The JOURNAL will be posted to their homes, so that it can be forwarded to them, if they will tell their homes they want this done. I hope these details are most practical, since it is vital to our R.N. members that each of them should get the Toc H JOURNAL.

The JOURNAL is the Roof-Tree of Toc H, as things now stand; for there can be few meetings, and information in the brotherhood is otherwise difficult to distribute, and members lapse because they get no news.

Now may I make the point that these six members must not become a little coterie; they are not meant to stand, in any way, apart from the ship's life, but rather to be the better shipmates because they are thus members of Toc H. If they proceeded upon these liberal lines they soon will find that interest is aroused, and other men decided to join Toc H, mainly because they like the men in it. But if you are not sure, in any case, about the wisdom of accepting members until you have proved their worth, I would suggest that they be recommended to receive what can be gladly issued from Headquarters, a Toc H Passport.

This enables men to come to Toc H meetings anywhere, and to receive a very cordial welcome, even before they join Toc H itself.

Now as to Jobs

Now as to jobs. It is, of course, absurd to think that peace-time work can be performed by those in ships, especially destroyers, under present conditions. But it is really wonderful to me how much keen men can do of Toc H work, in moments of spare time they have on board, and when they get ashore—which is so



rare. The happiest ship is bound to have some men who are unhappy, or depressed, or lonely; it is the truest of our Toc H jobs to do our best to help them through their troubles. Of course, all Christian men should do this work, but men are shy of undertaking it; as Toc H members they can act together, and this gives them the strength to carry on.

The Sailor Ashore

Then, when they come ashore they ought to visit the little Toc H unit in the place, and to make friends and help if they can. I well remember how, in 1940, when Coxswain William Jagers heard from me that Toc H Greenock ought to be assisted, he made up his own mind to lend a hand. When Arthur Lang, our splendid Greenock leader, left the small Club to go and welcome him—thinking a Coxswain should receive attention—Lang then missed Jagers by the waterside; returning sadly to the little Club, he found a sailor scrubbing out the kitchen—then he discovered, to his great amazement, the sailor was none other than the Coxswain himself! I only quote this story of two friends in order just to illustrate the point that our shore work deserves to be assisted and members when they land can so assist in ways which are not readily forgotten. A good example set will long continue.

Toc H at Greenock is a real good show though housed in very humble premises; and Arthur Lang is very much worth knowing—all the good folk in Greenock know of him. Toc H at Gourock is a happy team, who have been doing very useful work, with night accommodation for all-comers—they even had Chinese there as their guests. The Chinamen were far too shy to sleep in ordinary beds; they much preferred to spread the stone floor with a carpet of newspapers on which they slept, all round the kitchen stove. Quite half a dozen European nations have had their representatives from sea as Toc H guests at Gourock.

I must not make this long letter longer by

descriptions of Toc H work and Toc H life elsewhere. The simple fact is that Toc H R.N., even in war-time, can do much to help. The Children's Party at Toc H, Kirkwall, needs lots of toys; when Make and Mend occurs friends can get busy, and make little models which children prize because they come from sea. We need two thousand presents in November. These can be sent from home to Toc H Kirkwall, but many can be made by sailor members if they would care to help us in this way. A small consignment coming from a ship is a great help, provided that it comes before November leads on to December; for we must know, for certain, our supplies.

It is great fun belonging to Toc H; it cheers a man to have these interests which take his mind away from his own cares, and leads him on to think in wider terms.

The Faith on Active Service

Lastly, let me say about religion that Toc H stands for the full Christian faith; and Toc H men in ships will grin and bear rather than fail their faith in Jesus Christ. They will not lightly hear His Name misused, if any quiet word from them will help to raise the standard of the conversation; they will use tact, but not haul down His Colours. When Chaplains come aboard for the first time, Toc H will try and help them with their work; and Chaplains will be grateful for their aid, which may make all the difference in their task. Toc H has always stood, from the first days when it began in Talbot House in Flanders, for the sheer truth that most men, facing danger, are inwardly disposed towards religion if they can find a manly way of following up its precepts in their lives, without appearing to be hypocrites. I believe Toc H can help us here, because it does not ask what we believe, but rather asks its members to maintain their own beliefs about the Christian Faith, whatever Church they claim to be their own. Toc H is not another new religion, it is the old Christian Faith alive on active service.

TUBBY.

THE RIGHT OF TOC H TO BE ITSELF

FROM the earliest days members of Toc H have called it a family. That view of it is undergoing a severe test to-day. There are many who are prepared to act as though the term had little real meaning. This is dangerous. We ought to be prepared for changes that will alter the whole framework of our organisation. We ought not to regard any of our symbols or ceremonies as sacrosanct. We must not, however, forsake the purpose for which God called Toc H into being. We believe in God as the Father of men. The fellowship that we seek to create amongst men is a fellowship that exists in the presence of the things that divide. It is not a closed fellowship, it is an inclusive one. Because it is a Christian fellowship there will be some who will feel that they cannot be members. There ought to be none with whom we are not prepared to be in fellowship. Those who join us do not all do so because they are ready to call themselves Christians. Many join us because they are willing to try the Christian way of living as though we are all members one of another. It is in that sense that we claim to be a family.

Whenever I talk with two young people who are about to get married I try to help them to see that God has set the peoples of the earth to live in families with the hope that they might come to understand His purpose of making mankind a family, and the world a home. When we talk of the family of Toc H we are talking of another experiment in the same direction which will give men and women insight into the purpose of God. It is my lot to have many brothers and sisters. We differ, both in temper and temperament, in gifts, in appearance, and in convictions about religion and politics. In spite of our differences we belong to each other. They rejoice in my joy and I in theirs. If my life were to crash in ruins around me my family would feel the crash as though it were theirs. They would know that the crash did not tell the whole story about me. I do not expect the family to share my opinions, and differences

certainly do not break our fellowship. So it should be in Toc H.

One effect of the fellowship upon me may be to give me a passionate concern about the well-being of men and women who are oppressed or downtrodden. I may feel that I know the kind of society that would redress their wrongs. To further the creation of that society I may join this or that political organisation. If I am true to the purpose of Toc H as a family I shall not expect it to get behind my purpose. Toc H is not a propagandist society. It fires men with a passion which sends them out to try to build a better world. The spirit in which they fight is so changed that, however fierce the battle may be, they do not hate their opponents. They hate wrongs but not the wrong-doers. Toc H as a movement does not get behind any cause, however good. Its members will be propagandists for good causes in which they believe but they can expect to meet those who differ from them within the family of Toc H. If we tread any other road than this we may achieve a passing success but we shall not remain Toc H.

In times like these the right of Toc H to be itself is challenged from within the membership. Some wish that Headquarters would make pronouncements upon passing events. Others wish that they would suggest what the duty of a member is in times of national emergency. Still more desire that protests be made against this or that social evil. They say Christianity is a revolutionary movement, and they are right. Other revolutionary movements issue programmes and make protests, why does not Toc H? This world of blue prints and resolutions is very attractive, but let us be on our guard lest in our hands Christianity is presented not as a revolutionary movement but as a resolutionary one. It is the duty of members to link themselves with societies that propagate the convictions that they themselves hold. To expect the family of Toc H to line up behind them in support of these causes would be to weaken the essential witness of the movement. However

small the minority might be which did not agree with the cause supported, its existence would destroy the inclusiveness of the fellowship which it is ours to spread. Let us then guard jealously that which differentiates Toc H from other fellowships. Let it still be true

that within our family, temperance fan-
and brewer, communist and fascist, arti-
and professional man, soldier and qual-
may share, in fellowship and service,
quest of that new world which it is
Father's good pleasure to give to his childre
HERBERT LEGGATE.

A TALBOT HOUSE TALKIE

PROBABLY there is no place in England where Toc H plays a more obvious part in the town's wartime effort for service men than Louth in Lincolnshire. For Louth has no less than three 'Talbot Houses,' splendidly backed by the community, and 'Talbot House News' occupies regular space, varying from two columns to four, each week in the *Louth Advertiser*. The main aim of the first House is to cater for men in convoy, passing through; the second has more of the comforts and amenities which men can use who have more time to spend; the third is particularly for service women. Reports at the annual meeting of the Louth Talbot Houses, held on November 18, showed that all three had been extremely busy, popular and successful. The meeting, at which the Mayor and many other supporters were present, was presided over by Flight-Lieut. John Maddock (late Area Secretary, East Midlands).

A very original contribution to the cause of Toc H is a local 'Talbot Houses' film, which has produced both interest and financial help. It was undertaken, on his own initiative, by the manager of a local cinema and 'shot' and shown with the help of his operator. Rumours of this 'talkie' travelled afield and resulted in an evening's show recently at Headquarters in London. When the film arrived, its 'gadgets' were found to include not only the projector, complete with operator (Bert Rawlings), but a microphone and loud speaker and a boxful of sound effects in charge of a 'Voice' (Padre Norman McPherson). The show gave such a lively picture of a Toc H Services Club in action that it is to be hoped that it will somehow reach a wider public.

Here is a note about it from Fred Crosby the hard-working Secretary:

"Occasionally we think we are lucky to have three Talbot Houses in Louth. More often perhaps we wish that all we offer could be under one roof. For the purpose of making an amateur film, we were pleased to have the scope of three places, each offering something different. The first House, always busy from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with callers for a cup of tea, a rest, perhaps to write a letter, and then out to the 'buses awaiting them. In the second House day after day you see the same fellows comfortably established in the Lounge; this is a quieter place. Then the third House is a Women's Services Club, where the W.A.A.F.'s, A.T.S. and W.R.N.S. are soon making friends with the Military Hospital Nurses—a House where caller and helper are all part of one family.

"These were the places Bert Hallam and his assistant, Bert Rawlings, came to look over in early August, places where for the next couple of months the three of us were to spend all our spare time (if there is still such a thing!).

"We filmed the Canteens, the helpers doing their various jobs, our own Toc H chaps, together with the members of the local Contact Club. The members of the Services entered into the spirit of the thing, and we were often inundated with requests to 'be in the picture.'

"Czechs, Poles, Canadian airmen, a Free French sailor were all filmed doing the things they just happened to be doing when we arrived. The Sunday evening Watch gave the cameraman some fine scope for his art. The last shot was of a young Toc H airman whom we happened to find in the House one night. 'Abide With Me' was played, and as the singers sang the words 'Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies,' his head was slowly raised to an illuminated Cross standing on the altar and by the side of which was the Toc H Lamp.

"The film was of 25 minutes' duration, and was given to us for use on the occasion of our second Birthday Celebrations. It was about this time that Mr. Hallam received the brochure which was distributed after the Wireless Appeal. He at once suggested that the film should be shown in his cinema at every performance for a week, provided we could find somebody to make the appeal. Norman McPherson (than whom none ever did more for Lincolnshire Toc H) was a natural choice, and he at once fell in with the suggestion. The result was that when Herbert Leggate came to Louth's Talbot Houses' Second Birthday, Mr. Hallam pre-

sented him with a cheque for £115 for Toc H War Services Funds. In return Herbert presented Mr. Hallam with an illuminated address, with suitable gifts for his assistants to celebrate a job well done.

"And as I look back on the filming of the Houses, I can still laugh at the funny bits: at the soldier eating a very big meal very quickly, or at the contrast between a young sergeant writing home to his girl, and another doing his weekly to the missus. But when these things interest me no more I shall still remember how more than

500 people in this little corner of Lincolnshire, drawn from many different bodies, have built something of which they are proud. And on Sunday nights when we also take over the Town Hall for suitable Concerts, I often think that the thanks of the members of the Services belong as much to the errand boy, to the shop assistant helping behind the Canteen, as to the Mayor of the town and the leading citizens. Toc H is delighted to have brought these people together in one great family to do a simple and united job."

NEWS OF OUR PRISONERS OF WAR

Letters from Ilag VIII

OUR five staff men changed their quarters on October 1 and have, of course, settled down in Ilag VIII at Tost bei Gleiwitz on the old Polish border; their surroundings are very different from the mountains at Wuelzburg, in South-West Germany, where Ilag XIII, their former 'home,' lies. (Please note that, in writing to them, a W should now be added after their prison number.) Here are some scanty glimpses from their letters:—

FROM BRIAN H. BONHAM-CARTER.

Postcard dated 6.10.41, received 10.11.41: "See new address, the camp we were supposed to have come to last February. . . We are settling down here. In some ways we shall be more comfortable than we were. Hugh Pilcher is in the same room with me, which is grand; we have been together in the same room for 11 months now."

Postcard dated 8.10.41, received 16.11.41, reports that letters addressed to Ilag XIII had been quickly sent on to Ilag VIII: "We did not expect to get our forwarded letters for a week at least. So it's jolly good work of the Germans to get them through to us so promptly and we are most grateful. . ."

Postcard dated 9.10.41, received 18.11.41: "Another baccy parcel came to-day—most opportune, was just running out, it's a joy to get. We are all settling down. Yesterday we had a great football match Ilag XIII v. Ilag VIII. They let us out to watch the game; the ground is outside the wire. Our youngsters played a brilliant game and we won 6-1. The pace was too hot for the local team, we were running rings round them at the end. The disparity in age was the main reason for the victory, they were an older team. I like this place. I've a comfortable room and nice room mates—a mixed lot, of course, as usual, but pleasant and friendly. . . The weather seems to have broken now, after a very pleasant six weeks. . ."

FROM REG. STATON.

Letter to H.Q. (it begins "My dear Aunt Victoria") via Pat Leonard, dated 11.10.41: "It is very flat in these parts and suits me far better than the mountains. I'm fighting fit, as well as the other four. . . Tell Philip (? Clayton) that

I've met a number of (*War Graves*) gardeners here who knew him years ago, and I've promised to pass on their greetings to him. I've also met some men who were in Lille and knew the House there (*with the B.E.F. up to May, 1940*), and so I've been able to make a number of new friends. There are three members of the Charleroi Group here (i.e. *Percy French, Percy Hartley and, probably, Charles Hatt*) and I'm hoping to have a yarn with them before long. I'm finding plenty to do, but, alas, my reading has fallen off rather; this, I hope, will return ere long when I've got settled. . . Give my love to members of the family and thank them for their kind thoughts."

FROM HUGH PILCHER.

Postcard, dated 25.8.41, to the Secretary of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association: "So glad the Belra flag keeps flying. Shall look forward to your Annual Report. . . Am regaining some of the lost 3½ stone, and 3 inches of the lost 12 inches girth. . . All got our tails well up here. . ."

New Names

Additional names of Toc H members as prisoners of war (bringing the total to 126) are:—

Sergt.-Observer R. D. CORSER (Cambridge Branch), No. 23636, Stalag VIII B.

L. GALLOP (Sherborne Branch), No. 8124, Stalag XVIII D (306).

Pilot-Officer B. ORGAN (Stratford-on-Avon Branch), No. 3766, Oflag VI B.

MAURICE SERRES (one of a team from the Brotherhood of St. Francis, Cerne Abbas, who went out as R.A.M.C. orderlies and were captured in Greece), details lacking.

Sergt. W. TARN (Newcastle Branch), No. 11044, Stalag III D (308).

Major F. B. TOPHAM (Central and Services Branch, captured in the Middle East), details lacking.

The address of Padre G. KESTELL-CORNISH (reported still in Athens in December JOURNAL) is now Stalag VIII B. His number is 23905.

TOC H PUBLICATIONS

All communications regarding publications should be sent to Headquarters, Toc H, 47, Francis Street, London, S.W.1. Postage is extra on all publications unless otherwise stated.

BOOKS

- TALES OF TALBOT HOUSE. By Tubby. 1s.
 PLAIN TALES FROM FLANDERS. By Tubby. Longmans, 3s. 6d.
 TOC H UNDER WEIGH. By P. W. Monie. New Ed., Limp Linen, 1s.; 10s. per dozen.
 BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS. By P. W. Monie. Boards, 1s.
 TOWARDS NEW LANDFALLS. By Hubert Secretan. Boards, 1s.
 THE SMOKING FURNACE AND THE BURNING LAMP. Edited by Tubby. Longmans, Paper, 2s. 6d.; Cloth, 4s.
 A BIRTHDAY BOOK. Twenty-one years of Toc H. Illustrated. 176 pp. Reduced to 1s.
 A TREASURY OF PRAYERS AND PRAISES FOR USE IN TOC H (Revised). 9d. each.
 POCKETFUL OF PRAYERS. Revised Ed. 1s.
 LONDON BELOW BRIDGES. By Hubert Secretan. 3s. 6d.
 TOC H INDIA AND BURMA. 6d. each.
 ARTIFEX: THE CRAFTSMAN IN TOC H. 6d.
 GARDENS OF FLANDERS. Talbot House and the War Cemeteries. Illustrated. 6d.
 THE BRIDGE BUILDERS. 1s. post free.
 LINKMEN. Parts I and II. 1s. each post free.

PAMPHLETS

- A FEW FACTS FOR NEW FRIENDS. 2 pp. Free. Post free.
 A TALK ON TOC H, as broadcast by Ian W. Macdonald. 4 pp. Free. Post free.
 TOC H DEFINED. 1d. each; 9d. per dozen.
 CONCERNING TOC H. 2d. each; 1s. 6d. per dozen.
 1. *Talbot House.* 16 pp.
 2. *The Re-Birth.* 12 pp.
 3. *The First Ten Years.* 8 pp.
 4. *The Main Resolution.* 12 pp.
 5. *The Lamp.* 16 pp.
 6. *Fellowship.* 12 pp.
 7. *Thinking Fairly.* 12 pp.
 "I SERVE." How a man can help boys. 2d.
 A HYMN SHEET FOR TOC H SERVICES. 4s. 6d. per 100. Post free.
 A SERVICE OF LIGHT AND OF REDEDICATION in TOC H. 9d. per dozen, 4s. per 100.

HANDBOOKS

- BUILDING TOC H. 3d.
 THE ROYAL CHARTER OF TOC H. 3d.
 THE TOC H PADRE. By H. F. S. 6d.
 PILOTS. By A. G. C. 3d.
 "JOBS." By G. A. L. 3d.
 THE TREASURER IN TOC H. 3d.
 DISTRICT TEAMS. By G. A. L. 3d.
 TOC H IN THE ROYAL NAVY. 3d.
 TOC H IN THE ARMY. 2d.
 TOC H IN THE R.A.F. 3d.
 OVER THERE. A little guide for Pilgrims to the Old House. 6d.
 THE ANNUAL REPORT OF TOC H. April, 1940. Free.
 A TALK ABOUT TOC H (to Naval Members). 1d. each.

MUSIC

- THE TOC H SONG BOOK. 135 songs, words and music. 1s.; 10s. per dozen.
 NEWCASTLE SONG SHEET (No. 1). 1d. each; 3s. 6d. per 50.
 GO FORTH WITH GOD, words and music. 4d. each.

MISCELLANEOUS

- "TOC H ACROSS THE WORLD." Map showing all overseas units. 40 x 25 ins. 2s.
 SET OF FIVE CARDS. Suitable for framing: Main Resolution. Objects of the Association. The Toc H Prayer. Initiation to Membership. Ceremony of Light. 6d. per set.
 NOTEPAPER for Districts, Branches and Groups. 1s. 3d. per 100 sheets; 5s. 6d. per ream. Postcards 1s. per 100.
 HEADED NOTICE FORMS. 1s. each; 6d. per dozen.
 IDENTITY DISCS, round, white or coloured printed 'Toc H,' with space for name; safety pin attachment. 25 for 11d.; 100 for 3s. 6d.

BADGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- BUTTONHOLE BADGES. 9d.; 8s. 6d. per dozen to Branch and Group Secretaries.
 WRISTLET BADGES. For Service members only. Metal badge complete with strap. 2s. 6d.

THE JOURNAL

- THE TOC H JOURNAL. Monthly, 3d.; Annual Subscription 4s. 6d. post free. Supplied to Secretaries for free distribution among their members serving in H.M. Forces and among Services Clubs, etc. 1s. 6d. per dozen.